

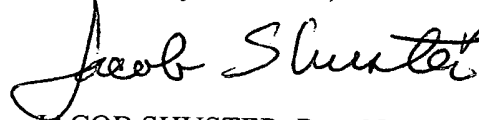
### REMARKS

According to the current Advisory Office Action the Examiner: (1) explicitly suggests certain substitutions for the amendments to claims 2, 9, 12, 13 and 16 previously proposed; and (2) states that if such suggestions are adopted to overcome the rejection of claims 2, 9, 12, 13 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 112, "the Examiner will respond with an art rejection--".

Since the present proposed amendments involve adoption of the Examiner's aforesaid suggestions, entry thereof is expected followed by another action with respect to pending claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 12, 13 and 16. Hopefully, upon reconsideration an allowance of such claims will be forthcoming.

This Third Amendment Under Rule 116 is replacing the Amendment Under Rule 116 that was filed on Sept. 30, 2002 with authorization to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0958. Accordingly, please transfer such unused charge to cover any new fee associated with this Third Rule 116 Amendment and credit the same deposit account if any overpayment is involved.

Respectfully submitted,



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**MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS**  
**TO THE CLAIMS**

Rewrite claims 2, 9, 12, 13 and 16 as follows:

2. (Amended) A process of forming a composite structure by applying a barrier to an underlying substrate during fabrication of the composite structure, including the steps of: introducing a fire resisting agent to the barrier after formation of the barrier; and attaching the barrier to the substrate before completing the fabrication of the composite structure; [The process as defined in claim 1, wherein] said step of introducing the fire resisting agent [comprises] comprising: in-situ infusion of the agent into the barrier during said fabrication of the composite structure.
9. (Amended) A process of forming a composite structure by applying a barrier to an underlying substrate during fabrication of the composite structure, including the steps of: introducing a fire resisting agent to the barrier after formation of the barrier; and attaching the barrier to the substrate before completing the fabrication of the composite structure; [The process as defined in claim 1, wherein] the barrier [is] being an intumescent mat and the fire resisting agent [is] being a phenolic resin.
12. (Amended) A process of forming a composite structure by applying a barrier to an underlying substrate during fabrication of the composite structure, including the steps of: introducing a fire resisting agent to the barrier after formation of the barrier; and attaching the barrier to the substrate before completing the fabrication of the composite structure; [The process as defined in claim 1, wherein] said attaching of the barrier being [is] performed by bonding thereof to the substrate by application of an adhesive between the barrier and the substrate.

13. (Amended) A process of forming a composite structure by applying a barrier to an underlying substrate during fabrication of the composite structure, including the steps of: introducing a fire resisting agent to the barrier after formation of the barrier; and attaching the barrier to the substrate before completing the fabrication of the composite structure; [The process as defined in claim 1, wherein] said attaching of the barrier [is] being effected in response to said introducing of the fire resisting agent by infusion into the barrier during formation of the substrate.

16. (Amended) A process for protective fabrication of a composite structure by applying a barrier layer after formation [thereof] of the composite structure to an underlying substrate, the improvement residing in the steps of: introducing a fire resisting agent by in-situ infusion into the barrier layer after said formation of the barrier; and attaching the barrier layer with the fire resisting agent infused therein to the substrate before completing said fabrication of the composite structure; [The process as defined in claim 15, wherein] said step of attaching the barrier layer to the substrate [is] being effected without use of adhesive by formation of the substrate during said in-situ infusion of the fire resisting agent into the barrier layer.

Cancel claims 4, 5, 7 and 11 without prejudice.